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vis Fulton
x: Nellor, Edward

23 October 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

Attention is invited to the attached story by Edward K. Nellor, NANA, --he is also Fulton Lewis's leg man--in which he charges that CIA failed to keep its word with two Washington newsmen after a visit with a CIA official.

He apparently refers to a visit by Colonel C. B. Hansen, a copy of whose report is attached herewith.

STANLEY J. GROGAN

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Enclosures

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DAILY DIARY

Friday
14 December 1951

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FULTON LEWIS, JR. (King Features)

I called on Fulton Lewis, Jr., to remonstrate with him on the allegations he had included in a column prepared for release on Monday, December 17th. While there I spoke at length with Edward K. Nellor, assistant to Lewis and author of the piece. I learned that Nellor had prepared not one but two articles scheduled for release on December 17 and December 18, each of them alleging that CIA, like the other intelligence agencies of government, had been penetrated by Communists and undesirable persons. He asked where we had secured the column for December 17th inasmuch as it had not yet been distributed by King Features in New York. I replied that intelligence was our business and that, like newspapermen, we claimed sanctity for our sources.

I then indicated that:

a. We did not dispute the right of Fulton Lewis to criticize CIA in any way that he wished; presumably that's his business.

b. CIA is an independent non-political organization; Lewis could not effectively assault the administration by attacking CIA.

c. Despite CIA's rigorous surveillance we would assume that the agency had employed some undesirables and that we were as anxious as Fulton Lewis to rid the agency of them if they could be pointed out.

d. Unfounded allegations could seriously damage the effectiveness of CIA by undermining confidence among the people with whom we must work in the business community on collection.

At the same time, I assured Nellor that if he would give us names and serial numbers, we would look down the throats of those persons he accused and report back confidentially to him. With this assurance he immediately phoned King Features in New York to kill the paragraphs relating to CIA in the columns scheduled for December 17th and 18th.

He further identified the two persons to whom he referred in the column of December 17th. The first was a Helvi Jaakkola, a Finnish translator who, he alleged, had been apprehended while pilfering secret files from Signal Intelligence. The second was a Jodas M. Odarenko (sic), who, he alleged, had "molested women" while employed by Signal Intelligence. He further identified Odarenko as chairman of the "Joint Electronic Intelligence Service." He stated that Odarenko is Russian-born and questioned whether it was desirable for the American intelligence service to employ persons of

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foreign birth. I attempted to point out the ridiculousness of this position. Nellor thereafter offered me his sources of information on these allegations reminding me that they were to be treated very confidentially.*

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* Unless the sources are very carefully protected, we shall have the wrath of Fulton Lewis forever on our heads.

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